

31. An *in vitro* assay for the detection of v-IL-6, comprising contacting a sample suspected of containing v-IL-6 with an antibody that binds v-IL-6 and detecting said antibodies that bind said v-IL-6 in said sample.

32. The assay of claim 31, wherein said detecting of antibodies that bind said v-IL-6 indicates the presence of an HHV-8 in said sample.

33. The assay of claim 31, wherein said detecting of antibodies that bind said v-IL-6 indicates the presence of an HHV-8 in said sample.

34. A method of culturing cells, comprising adding to a cell culture comprising said cells a cell growth-stimulating amount of v-IL-6.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein said cells are selected from the group consisting of  $\beta$ -lymphocytes, hybridomas, hemopoietic and endothelial cells.--

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments eliminate multiple dependency and otherwise conform the claims to U.S. practice. No new matter is added.

Examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

January 19, 1999  
Date

Patricia D. Granados  
Patricia D. Granados  
Reg. No. 33,683

FOLEY & LARDNER  
3000 K Street, NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20007-5109  
(202) 672-5300